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ROBERT KENNEDY DUNCAN.

WAS born in Brantford, Ontario, November 1, 1868, and died in Mercy Hospital, Pittsburg, Pa., February 18, 1914. His Scotch-Irish descent was quite characteristically shown in his logical thinking and farsightedness and in his optimistic outlook and happy disposition.

He graduated from the University of Toronto in 1892, with first-class honors in physics and chemistry. He was Fellow in Chemistry in Clark University in 1892-'93, and a graduate student in Columbia University in 1897-'98. The University of Pittsburg conferred upon him the honorary degree of Doctor of Science, in 1912, during the exercises celebrating its 125th anniversary.

He was instructor in physics and chemistry in the Auburn (N. Y.), Academic High School, 1893-'95, Dr. Julius Sachs' Collegiate Institute (N. Y.), 1895-'98, the Hill School, Pottstown, Pa., 1898-1901, Professor of Chemistry in Washington and Jefferson College, 1901-'06, Professor of Industrial Chemistry in the University of Kansas, 1906-'10, Director of Industrial Research and Professor of Industrial Chemistry at the University of Kansas and at the University of Pittsburg, 1910-'13.

Doctor Duncan became a member of the Kansas Academy of Science when he came to Kansas in 1906. He was a member also of the American Chemical Society, the Society of Chemical Industry, the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the Society of the Sigma Xi, the Royal Society of Arts, and a Fellow of the Chemical Society of London.

In 1899 he married Miss Charlotte M. Foster, of Brantford, Ontario, who survives him, as do also his only daughter, Elspeth, and his brothers, Dr. Norman Duncan, the well-known story-writer, and Ernest H. Duncan, of Willoughby, Ohio.

In the years 1900, 1903, 1904 and 1906 Doctor Duncan studied abroad, gathering material to be used in his chosen field of literary activity—the interpretation and popularizing of chemical science—in which his clear and charming style made him an acknowledged master. In addition to his nu-

merous contributions to the magazines—notably Harper's—he was the author of "The New Knowledge," published in 1905, "The Chemistry of Commerce," 1907, and "Some Chemical Problems of To-day," 1911.



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He made a thorough investigation of the conditions under which the chemists employed in American manufactories do their work, and promoted their welfare by advocating the betterment of these conditions and the greater recognition of the value of their services. A leading motive in his later writings was to bring together the scientifically and technically

trained researcher and the American industrialist into mutually advantageous correlation for the solution of important manufacturing problems and the attainment of increased efficiency. This culminated in the birth of a new idea in education—the Industrial Fellowship—which was conceived while he was attending the Sixth International Congress of Applied Chemistry, held in Rome, in 1906, and was put into actual operation in the University of Kansas in January, 1907. The experiment soon attracted the attention of industrialists throughout the country, and in 1910 the University of Kansas authorized Professor Duncan, while retaining his full position as Director of the Department of Industrial Research in Kansas, to accept as well a similar position at the University of Pittsburg, in order that these Fellowships might be established in the East as well as in the West.

At the time of Doctor Duncan's death a new granite structure was being erected to be the home of the Mellon Institute of Industrial Research and School of Specific Industries. Its completion has been amply provided for and it will be a monument to his unselfish devotion to a glorious vision.

What was it that enabled this man, genius though he was, to accomplish such extraordinary results in so short a time? Two very simple words fully answer this question: faith and love—faith in God—faith in humanity—faith in “his boys”—love for God—love for humanity—love for “his boys.” He was a father to those who were privileged to work under his guidance and inspiration. Their joys and sorrows were his—and his were theirs. Whenever one of them made a discovery his first expression was, “How fine for the boy!” From the very beginning he impressed upon them the importance of maintaining the “spirit of the laboratory,” which was expressed in the motto on its walls:

“Quæcunque igitur volueritis ut faciant vobis homines, ita et vos facite eis, ita enim est lex et prophetæ.” (Matt. vii, 12.)